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## Shadow of the Pentagon

When former President Eisenhower vacated the White House early in 1961 he warned against "the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex." Senator J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, fears we may have already reached that stage.

Senator Fulbright has long felt that the Administration places too much emphasis on military means to fight Communism rather than on peace-means. The Defense Department and the Central Intelligence Agency, in his view, have too much influence at the White House — more than the State Department. He suggests that the peace that President Johnson has won with the business community is due in part to the encouragement given to the Defense Department and the resulting "enormous contracts" for defense-oriented industries.

The questions he raises about our Vietnam policy are also interesting ones: Is the Johnson Administration doing all it can to bring about peace talks on South Vietnam, or are we all through seeking peace until we can attain certain military objectives?

Because of the recent buildup and increased commitment of the United States in Vietnam mil-

itarily, there may be something in what Fulbright says. For as we increase that effort, new military objectives naturally develop. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge said recently for example, that the time was not yet ripe for peace talks.

Yet the President and the Administration spokesmen claim we are willing to go to any end in the cause of peace. As a real initiative toward peace, Fulbright says we should halt the bombings for a meaningful length of time—much longer than the four-day suspension last March.

Militarily we should continue to pursue objectives in South Vietnam that will contribute toward a more stable situation once peace talks can be arrived at. But real peace overtures should not be turned down because of commitments to prior military objectives.

Perhaps at this stage a lengthy cessation of the air strikes would give too much aid and comfort to the Vietcong and their supporters in North Vietnam. But Senator Fulbright's views should help the Administration to keep our military effort in Vietnam in proper perspective and the Pentagon in its proper role as an instrument in, rather than a maker of, foreign policy.